

Message Text

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ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-07 SP-02 SS-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 EB-03 /067 W

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R 090915Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7520

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12123

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, CH, TW, UR

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION

REF: MANILA 12014

1. ON OCTOBER 8, PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT RELEASED SHORT STATEMENT ON BEHALF PRESIDENT MARCOS. IT READS "AS OF NOW, STEPS BEING TAKEN TOWARDS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST COUNTRIES PERTAIN ONLY TO THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA." STATEMENT GIVEN FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN CONTROLLED PRESS OCTOBER 9 WITH EXPLANATION PRESIDENT HAD ISSUED CLARIFICATION AS RESULT PRESS SPECULATION GOP MOVING TOWARD "SIMULTANEOUS OR ALMOST SIMULTANEOUS" DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND
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SOVIET UNION.

2. PHILIPPINE TRADE MISSION TO MOSCOW THAT URGED GOP ENTER INTO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON TRADE AGREEMENT HAS STILL NOT SHOWED UP IN TOWN. IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING MOSCOW VISITOR NEDA DIRGEN SICAT INTIMATED TO EC/COM COUNSELOR OCTOBER 8 THAT HE AND OTHERS IN GOP DISTINCTLY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT DOING BUSINESS WITH RUSSIAN WHILE GOP INTEREST IN DOING BUSINESS WITH PRC WARMING UP.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH INDICATIONS ABOVE AND PRESIDENT'S RECENT DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR (PARA 6 REFTTEL) SUGGESTS HE IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH NORMALIZATION OF PHIL RELATIONS WITH PRC, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE HE WISHES FOLLOW TWO TRACK APPROACH WHICH WOULD IDEALLY LEAD TO NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PRC AND USSR AT ABOUT SAME TIME. WE WOULD ACCORDINGLY READ HIS "CORRECTION OF THE RECORD" AS A SIGNAL DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO GET THE RUSSIANS TO UP THE ANTE. WHETHER GOP CAN WORK OUT SIMULTANEOUS RELATIONS WILL DEPEND, AS IT ALWAYS HAS, ON DEGREE TO WHICH BOTH PRC AND USSR CAN OFFER ADEQUATE INDUCEMENTS AND REASSURANCES. AT MOMENT, PRC IS CLEARLY AHEAD.
SULLIVAN

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